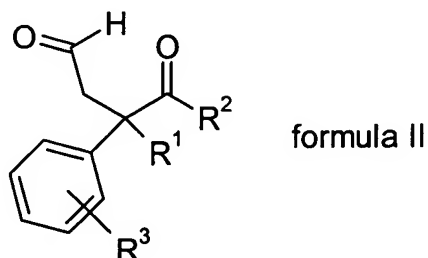


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula II:

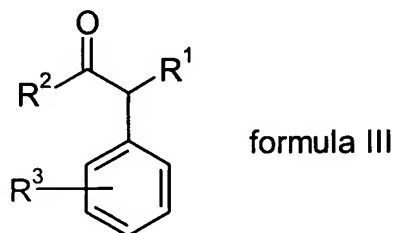


wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylthio;

R<sup>2</sup> is phenyl, naphthyl or (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)cycloalkyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylthio, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylhalo, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkenyl or halo;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylthio, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylhalo, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkenyl or halo, comprising, treating a compound of formula III

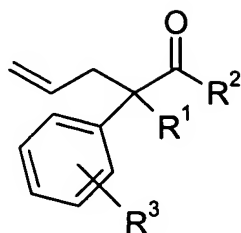


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are described as above, with a base and a compound of formula IV:



wherein X is a leaving group, to provide the compound of formula V

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formula V

and oxidizing the compound of formula V with an oxidizing agent to provide the compound of formula II.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein  
R<sup>1</sup> is CH<sub>3</sub>;  
R<sup>2</sup> is cyclohexyl; and  
R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 2 wherein  
X is Br or Cl.

4. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 3 wherein the oxidizing agent  
is ozone.

5. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 wherein the base is  
potassium tert-butoxide.

6-7. (Canceled)